

## → Improving disaster management to European standards

**Country** Turkey

**Project title** Improving disaster management capacity of Denizli Fire Department

**Twinning** Municipality of Almelo (the Netherlands)  
Municipality of Denizli (Turkey)

**Project period** 1 June 2008 to 1 January 2010

**Project budget** € 49.092,42

### Project objective

To improve sound planning capacities for disaster management within the fire department of Denizli and to train the staff of the fire brigade in line with the European standards.

### Project summary

The municipalities of Almelo and Denizli worked together on better coordination and clear procedures in case of an emergency. To ensure the projects' sustainability, the training and disaster management plans and procedures were documented and implemented in the event of fighting a disaster.

### Core information

Denizli is a major city in the Aegean Region of Turkey with around 850,000 inhabitants. The country is mostly threatened by earthquakes, while other natural disasters such as floods and landslides pose occasional problems in various regions. Being in such position, good disaster management is of great importance. The Fire Brigade and Civil Defense Experts of the municipalities are the responsible departments for disaster management. Further, the economy of Denizli is largely dependent on agriculture, fishery, and forestry. Industry has been developing fast in the recent years, including the renowned textile industry. The municipality of Denizli is the local administrative institution, working on the infrastructure of the city as well as providing social services to the citizens.

### Problem analysis

In 2006 the Turkish government issued regulations that made the municipalities fully responsible for the disaster management in their region, although short and long term plans were lacking. Danger descriptions needed to be drafted and prevention strategies needed to be formed. There was lack of education and technical capacity regarding disaster prevention, planning, and

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implementation. Public organizations, institutions, and citizens were unaware of the risks in the event of a disaster and there was a lack of coordination and communication between public organizations and institutions and non-governmental organization in such events.

### **Project implementation**

Following a kick-off meeting, municipal experts of Almelo advised experts of Denizli on monitoring and implementation of fire attack plans and the execution of a risk analysis. Specific attention was given to education concerning fire attack plans in the event of chemical accidents. Instructions on procedures and European standards were conveyed. A feasibility study of disaster coordination was also on the agenda. In the follow-up visit to Denizli, an exercise with a fire attack plan was set up for the Fire Department. During the subsequent visit to Almelo, knowledge sharing was provided through workshops on several subjects. Also the training plan of the Denizli Fire Department was improved; fire fighters now have an individual training plan which registers the frequency and types of exercises. In order to work properly with the fire attack plans, training with them with different scenarios is important. The Municipality of Denizli builds a training facility with their own budget. In the following visit to Denizli the training experts worked on how to build, equip, and practice with such a facility. The last visit to Almelo was used to train and educate in order to guarantee sustainability. Also work was done on a policy plan.

### **Process management**

In addition to the Municipality of Almelo, Municipalities of Deventer, Rotterdam and Amsterdam have also contributed in knowledge sharing.

### **Recommendations: do's and don'ts**

- For disaster management, define possible dangers.
- Develop prevention, planning, implementation, coordination strategies accordingly.
- Identify training needs.
- Raise public awareness about disasters and survival strategies.